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textbooks, and that new methods frequently make existing capital obsolete.

Vassar College.

HERBERT E. MILLS.

Disturbing Elements in the Study and Teaching of Political Economy. By JAMES BONAR. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1911. Pp. 145. \$1.00.)

This small but heavily freighted book by the Canadian Mint Master is made up of five lectures—forming as many chapters—which were delivered “in the Johns Hopkins University, April 25-29, 1910, before the Economic Seminary, at whose desire, by the courtesy of the University, they are now printed.”

Quite explicably, but also quite unfortunately, the longer title, here quoted from the title page, has been truncated into the misleading cover title, “Study and Teaching of Political Economy.” As Mr. Bonar’s own title for his lectures suggests, they are “discourses on the more subtle fallacies which are apt to invade the reasoning of trained economists in spite of learning and discipline.” “Such errors creep in from a popular political philosophy, from want of any political philosophy, from mistaken aversion to theory, from the shortcomings of common or technical language, and from the wrong handling of distinctions of time.” These sources of error suggest the happily chosen titles of the five lectures or chapters: “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”; “Government is Founded on Opinion”; “It may be so in Theory”; “Figures can Prove Anything”; and “In the Long Run.”

Though the book is concerned with what may be called the philosophy and method of the science of economics, it deserves a place quite apart from others in that field. In its one hundred thirty small pages of regular text there are condensed volumes of broad, kindly criticism and philosophy. Almost every sentence could well have been expanded to a page. While the book merits careful and studious consideration for the thought it offers and provokes, it should receive the even higher praise that its charm of style, its Puck-like humor, will allure the reader in his idler hour. Every page sparkles with sentences that tempt the reader to quotation: “Certain aids in study and teaching are apt to become hindrances when tenderly fondled;” “to overcome our own bias, we may adopt another man’s bias”; “Certain disturbing elements or alien influences have in times past prevented

economic reasoning from being quite pure. Not even the youngest of us escapes them entirely"; "The watchword is often a walking prejudice"; "It does not belong to his own particular range of study, but comes from the street into his room, like notes of a passing band of music, awaking old memories and associations"; "It is a fairly safe conclusion that the ideas not only of liberty and equality, but of fraternity, will always be with us, and we may thank Mill for securing to the last its *entrée* into the good society of political economists."

The reviewer wishes the readers of the *ECONOMIC REVIEW* to get the book and share his enjoyment. To this end it would be of little use to attempt to analyze, or summarize, or criticize Mr. Bonar's chapters.

GEORGE RAY WICKER.

Dartmouth College.

Sociology Applied to Practical Politics. By JOHN BEATTIE CROZIER. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1911. Pp. xi, 320. \$3.00.)

This book consists of a group of articles which Dr. Crozier has contributed at various times during the past ten years to the English magazines. The title, if not a misnomer, is at least misleading; the "Sociology" which is applied to practical political problems is highly speculative, and has none of the authority of science except in the sense that all speculative philosophical opinions are scientific. Some of the problems to which this "Sociology" is applied have very little to do with practical politics. A number of the earlier articles deal with certain phases of the socialism of Marx, the Fabian Society, and Mr. H. G. Wells—not matters of practical politics for the English reading public. The second half of the book is devoted to the advocacy of a revision of the English tariff in the interests of high protection. Tariff reform is assuredly a problem of practical politics, but its discussion occupies so large a proportion of the book that the subject might well have been incorporated in its title. Apart from a paper on the "Race Problem and Party Government," Dr. Crozier has merely reprinted a series of essays on certain phases of socialism and protectionism.

These essays were better worth reading as separately printed between the covers of a magazine than in a collection. If Dr.